

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-10, 14 and 21-24, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) Printing paper comprising:

a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners, and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion,

wherein the outside portions are ~~an edge portion~~ portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion,

wherein the other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other printing paper, ~~and~~

wherein the center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion, and

wherein the outside portions are connected to only one center portion ~~wherein at least one of the center portion and the pair of outside portions are formed so that the four corners of the center portion have a round shape after removing the outside portions from the center portion.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The printing paper according to Claim 1, wherein the printing paper has perforations between the center portion and the outside portions.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The printing paper according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ each curved edge ~~round shape~~ is an arc form.

5. (Currently Amended) Label printing paper comprising an image receiving layer releasably laminated on a supporting layer, the label printing paper having a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion,

wherein the outside portions are ~~an edge portion~~ portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion,

wherein the other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other label printing paper, ~~and~~

wherein the center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion, and

~~wherein the outside portions are connected to only one center portion wherein at least one of the center portion and the pair of outside portions are formed so that the four corners of the center portion have a round shape after removing the outside portions from the center portion.~~

6. (Previously Presented) The label printing paper according to Claim 5, wherein the printing paper has perforations between the center portion and the outer portions.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The label printing paper according to Claim 5, wherein ~~the~~ each curved edge ~~round shape~~ is an arc form.

9. (Currently Amended) A printing process comprising the steps of:
providing a printing paper according to Claim 1;
conveying the printing paper while holding one of the outside portions of the printing paper;
conducting printing on the center portion of the printing paper; and
cutting off the outside portions of the printing paper from the center portion.

10. (Currently Amended) A printing process comprising the steps of:

providing a label printing paper according to Claim 5;
conveying the label printing paper while holding one of the ~~outside portions of the~~
~~label~~ printing paper;
conducting printing on the center portion of the label printing paper; and
separating the image-receiving layer at the center portion from the supporting
layer.

11. (Previously Presented) A printing system comprising:
a printing paper according to Claim 1, a print head for conducting printing on the
center portion of the printing paper, and a pair of conveyer rollers for holding the outside
portions of the printing paper to convey the printing paper.

Claims 12 and 13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A printing system comprising:
a label printing paper according to Claim 5, a print head for conducting printing
on the center portion of the label printing paper, and a pair of conveyer rollers for holding the
outside portions of the label printing paper to convey the printing paper.

15. (Previously Presented) The printing paper according to Claim 1, wherein the center portion has a size of 52.0 to 56.0 mm in short-side length and 83.5 to 87.5 mm in long-side length.

16. (Previously Presented) The label printing paper according to Claim 5, wherein the center portion has a size of 52.0 to 56.0 mm in short-side length and 83.5 to 87.5 mm in long-side length.

17. (Previously Presented) Printing paper according to Claim 1, wherein an image is not formed on the outside portions.

18. (Previously Presented) Label printing paper according to Claim 5, wherein an image is not formed on the outside portions.

19. (Previously Presented) Printing paper according to Claim 2, wherein the perforations are in a straight line.

20. (Previously Presented) Label printing paper according to Claim 6, wherein the perforations are in a straight line.

21. (Currently Amended) The printing process according to Claim 9, wherein the outside portions are provided so that a pair of conveyer rollers hold the printing paper without releasing the printing paper until the printing is completed, and wherein the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center portion even if the printing paper is conveyed with ~~from~~ either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.

22. (Currently Amended) The printing process according to Claim 10, wherein the outside portions are provided so that a pair of conveyer rollers hold the label printing paper without releasing the label printing paper until the printing is completed, and wherein the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center portion even if the label printing paper is conveyed with ~~from~~ either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.

23. (Currently Amended) The printing system according to Claim 11, wherein the outside portions are provided so that the pair of conveyer rollers hold the printing paper without releasing the printing paper until the printing is completed, and wherein the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center portion even if the printing paper is conveyed with ~~from~~ either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.

24. (Currently Amended) The printing system according to Claim 14, wherein the outside portions are provided so that the pair of conveyer rollers hold the label printing paper without releasing the label printing paper until the printing is completed, and

wherein the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center portion even if the label printing paper is conveyed with ~~from~~ either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.